

Message Text

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FOR HUMMEL AND ALDRICH

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, PFOR, ETRD, RP

SUBJECT: ECONOMIC NEGOTIATIONS

REF: A. STATE 107689

B. MANILA 5811

1. WHILE ISSUES RAISED BY SUGGESTED SCENARIO ARE IMPORTANT, THE APPROACH SUGGESTED PARAS 3 A, B AND C REFTTEL A, SHOULD BE MANAGEABLE FROM THIS END. OUR ASSESSMENT IS THAT WRITTEN ASSURANCES OF "BEST EFFORTS" IN RESPECT TO TRADE CONCESSIONS AS DISCUSSED PARA 3D ARE PRESENTLY NEITHER ADVISABLE NOR NECESSARY. IN ANY CASE CHOICE BETWEEN SPECIAL LEGISLATION AND TRADE REFORM ACT ROUTES TO IMPLEMENTATION OF NEGOTIATED CONCESSIONS IS PROPERLY USG RESPONSIBILITY. PHILIPPINE CONCERNS ARE UNDERSTANDABLE BUT WE DON'T STAND TO GAIN BY ENCOURAGING THEM TO RECOMMEND OR EXPECT US TO FOLLOW ANY SPECIFIC COURSE.

2. PREPARATION OF SPECIFIC SCHEDULES OF TARIFF REDUCTIONS IS, OF COURSE, A CRUCIAL STEP TO PHILS, BUT ITS PURSUIT CAN BE LINKED TO THE PROGRESS OF LEGISLATIVE

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AUTHORITY WITHOUT HARM TO ULTIMATE OUTCOME OF

NEGOTIATIONS. WE HOPE TO PROCEED FOR THE MOMENT, THEREFORE, ON THEORY OF PASSAGE OF TRADE BILL AND NOT GET INTO ARGUMENT OVER CIEP-NSC CONCERN ABOUT RISKS OF EARLY CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS ON SPECIAL LEGISLATION. IT MUST BE KEPT IN MIND, EVEN SO, THAT WHILE MARCOS IS NOT WEDDED TO ANY PARTICULAR TIMETABLE FOR AGREEMENT ON TRADE QUESTIONS, HE CAN'T BE EXPECTED TO CONCLUDE ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT PORTION OF AGREEMENT UNTIL TRADE QUESTIONS SETTLED. MOREOVER, ALTHOUGH HE HAS REASONS OF HIS OWN FOR PROCEEDING WITH ANNOUNCEMENT ON LAND AND OTHER MEASURES REPORTED REFTEL B, PROSPECT OF TOO LONG DELAY IN EXPOSURE OF SPECIFICS OF TRADE PROPOSALS WILL HARDLY ENCOURAGE HIS PROCEEDING WITH THESE MEASURES.

3. OUR EFFORT THUS IS TO MAINTAIN MOMENTUM, KEEPING A VISIBLE AND CREDIBLE PRESSURE ON MARCOS AND THE CABINET TO KEEP THE PIECES MOVING. FOR THAT WE MUST CONTINUE TO WORK TOWARD ARRIVAL US TEAM ON JUNE SCHEDULE I HAVE INDICATED TO MARCOS AND THE CABINET.

4. INTER-AGENCY DISCUSSIONS ON TARIFF SCHEDULES CAN CONTINUE. TO ASSIST THESE DISCUSSIONS MISSION WILL FORWARD BY SEPTTEL REVIEW OF TRADE BARRIERS AFFECTING PRINCIPAL US AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS TO PHILIPPINES. SITUATION VARIES FROM COMMODITY TO COMMODITY BUT UTILITY TO US OF EFFORTS TO REDUCE PHILIPPINE TARIFF AND OTHER BARRIERS TO AGRICULTURAL IMPORTS EASILY OVERESTIMATED.
SULLIVAN

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